

4 Results

4.1 Stakeholders, Needs & Issues By County

This section of the document contains the results from the information-gathering process within each county. **Important Note:** In many of the meetings held in individual counties, there were issues brought up which are not consortium issues, or issues that can or should be addressed at the consortium level. These concerns have all been documented in the meeting minutes from those meetings (which all appear in an appendix to this document), but they may not be repeated or documented in this section. The concentration in this document was on items relevant to and addressable by the consortium.

Appendix D – Radio Inventory Summary contains a detailed listing of the radio inventories of those agencies who answered questionnaires. If questionnaires were not answered, there may not be an entry for those agencies. The one notable exception is Fallon County, where Chuck Lee sent the Project Manager a good deal of information about radios in that county.

4.1.8 Garfield County

County Representative: Kelly Pierson, Sheriff, Garfield County. 406-557-2540

Number Of County Stakeholder Questionnaires Returned: 1

Number Of County Agencies Represented By Questionnaires: 6

4.1.8.1 County Interactions

The following matrix details the major stakeholders in the county and how they interact with each other.

Garfield County	Garfield County Sheriff's Office	Garfield County Dispatch	Custer County Dispatch	MHP	McCone County, MT	Petroleum County, MT	Rosebud County, MT	Prairie County, MT	Valley County, MT	Garfield County Ambulance Service	Garfield County SAR	Jordan VFD	Garfield County Health Center	Fitzgerald Transportation	FBI	Forest Service	FWP	DNRC	MDOT	BLM	Montana Army National Guard	Garfield County Road Dept	Livestock	Fergus County	Garfield County Coroner	Phillips County, MT	Garfield County Fire Warden	Garfield County DES	East-Mont Electronics
Garfield County Sheriff's Office																													
Garfield County Dispatch	B																												
Custer County Dispatch	B	E																											
MHP	E	E	E																										
McCone County, MT	E	E	E	E																									
Petroleum County, MT	E	E	E	E	E																								
Rosebud County, MT	E	E	E	E	E	E																							
Prairie County, MT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																						
Valley County, MT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																					
Garfield County Ambulance Service	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																				
Garfield County SAR	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																			
Jordan VFD	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																		
Garfield County Health Center	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																	
Fitzgerald Transportation	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E																
FBI	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E															
Forest Service	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E														
FWP	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E													
DNRC	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E												
MDOT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E											
BLM	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E										
Montana Army National Guard	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E									
Garfield County Road Dept.	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E								
Livestock	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E							
Fergus County	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E						
Garfield County Coroner	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E					
Phillips County, MT	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E				
Garfield County Fire Warden	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E			
Garfield County DES	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E		
East-Mont Electronics	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	E	

Figure 16 – Communication Interactions, Garfield County



4.1.8.2 Questionnaire Results

Garfield County Sheriff's Office, Ambulance Service, SAR, Jordan VFD, Garfield County Health Center, Fitzgerald Transportation

Date of Interview or Survey Completion:

05/06/2005

Location of Agency:

Jordan, Montana

Person Present And Agencies/Entities Represented:

Garfield County Sheriff's Office
Garfield County Ambulance Service
Garfield County Search and Rescue
Jordan Volunteer Fire Department
Garfield County Health Center
Fitzgerald Transportation

Questions

1. Number of Channels? Simplex or Duplex?

Half Duplex System

Garfield County currently has four (4) repeaters with four separate PL tones, however only one frequency.

2. List the frequencies your agency currently uses and how each is used.

All agencies use this one frequency:

Receive: 154.8000 Transmit: 158.790

3. Coverage

A. Approximately what percentage of your jurisdictional area is adequately covered?

Approximately 90% coverage.

B. How acceptable is that coverage?

Very acceptable due to the irregular terrain and the use of cellular phone to fill in the “dead spots.”

C. If unacceptable, why (Severe terrain, Gaps, Antenna Patterns, In-building Problems, etc.)?

Not answered.

D. If acceptable, would an improvement still be desired? Why?

*Improvement should be considered for the extreme south western part of Garfield County. This is an area with near zero population, however it is the only area in the county that is lacking radio coverage by **our** repeaters. (Tri-County repeater will cover.)*

E. Do you have mobile-to-mobile coverage countywide? If not, do you need it?

Garfield County does not have mobile-to-mobile coverage. Due to the size of the jurisdiction repeaters must be utilized to talk mobile-to-mobile.

4. Current Loading**A. Number of Mobile Units:**

25 vehicular mounted radios.

B. Number of Portable Unit:

50 handheld radios.

5. Any units currently P25 capable/enabled? Which ones?

*Five (5) Bendix King handheld radios
Two (2) Motorola vehicle mounted radios*

6. Dispatch**A. How is dispatch conducted?**

*Dispatch for Garfield County is currently provided by Custer County per a long-standing agreement.
Garfield County currently has one part-time dispatcher. Custer County is utilized when our part-time dispatcher is absent.*

B. From where?

Custer County; (Miles City)

Miles City is approximately eighty-five miles south of Jordan.

C. Hardware Used?

A complex system of radio transmissions and existing telephone lines are used to transport communications to/from Garfield County and Custer County.

D. Number of Positions?

Dispatch is located in Jordan in the event that the transmission occurs between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. At all other times, dispatch is conducted through Custer County in Miles City, Montana.

E. Adequate? If not, why? How could it be improved?

In my opinion, this system of dispatch is adequate. However, in a perfect world, I would suggest hiring four more dispatchers which would allow Garfield County the means to dispatch for ourselves. Thus freeing Custer County of the added burden. This however, is presently an impossibility due to budget constraints.

7. Sharing of System**A. Is your system currently being shared?**

Yes.

B. Which parts and with whom?

All parts of this system are presently being shared between:

Garfield County Sheriff's Office
Garfield County Ambulance Service
Jordan Volunteer Fire Department
Garfield County Search and Rescue
Fitzgerald Transportation
Garfield County Health Center

8. What is good about your current system?

This current system has been in use for many years, consequently, almost everyone from the various agencies are familiar with the basic functions.

This current system has been relatively trouble free. Cost of maintenance is extremely low.

The current system provides a very high percentage of coverage of Garfield County with clear transmissions.

9. What are the issues, problems, or challenges with your current system not already covered above?

Coverage in the extreme south western portion of Garfield County is somewhat limited. However, due to an almost zero population in that region, this [has] never been an issue. Also, the tri-County Repeater in Petroleum County will cover this area in an emergency.

10. What other agencies do you need to communicate with?

A. On a day-to-day (administrative) basis:

Custer County

B. On an emergency basis:

Montana Highway Patrol, McCone County, Petroleum County, Rosebud County, Prairie County, Valley County.

11. Please describe your radio communications during typical day-to-day (administrative) activities and during emergencies.

*911 paging system for Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire, Search and Rescue.
Typical, radio application for above mentioned agencies.*

12. List, in priority order, up to five (5) communications improvements needed from initial dispatch to call completion.

- 1. Possibly add a 100 watt repeater on the Brown Divide near Brown Ranch to cover the extreme south western portion of Garfield County.*
- 2. Bring entire radio system up to P-25 compatible standard.*
- 3.*
- 4.*
- 5.*

13. List, in priority order, up to five (5) factors that will be critical to future radio system in your county, city, or area of jurisdiction.



1. *Affordability – in installation as well as long term maintenance.*
2. *Coverage – Garfield County is a large county with extreme terrain features making 100% coverage very difficult.*
3. *Reliability – Some repeater sites are difficult to gain access to in inclement weather. Repairs and maintenance during such times are near impossible.*
4. *Education – It is difficult to train/retrain the many agencies that use this radio system effectively.*
- 5.

14. Please use this space to add any items or comments which you would like to make that have not been covered above.

Again, allow me to stress that the current communications system in Garfield County, however antiquated, works very well. Even with the many agencies that use the system, radio congestion is nonexistent. This is due to a very small population, couple with huge land mass. The problem being, this system is a stand alone system that is not easily accessible to state and federal agencies in the case of an emergency.

4.1.8.3 County Concerns or Issues

1. Communications Improvements

The following pie chart depicts the communications improvements desired by the responding stakeholders in this county:

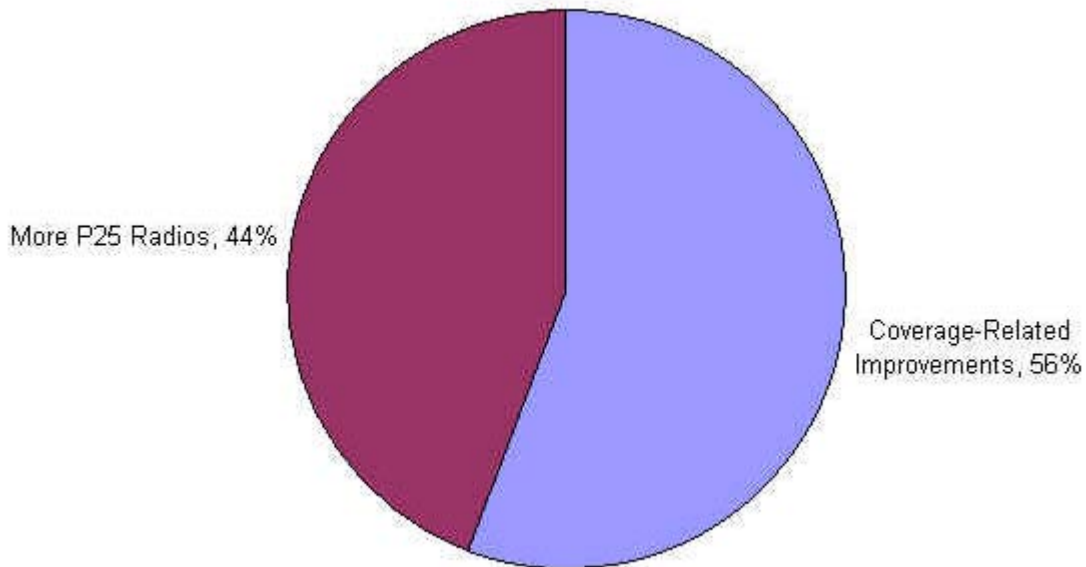


Figure 17 – Communications Improvements, Garfield County

How to read this chart:

Stakeholders were asked to list, in priority order, the top five communications improvements they would like to see. Those items ranked higher were given a higher point value than those ranked lower. A percentage was then calculated. If the chart contains less than five “wedges,” this means the stakeholders did not list the full five possible items.

2. Success Factors

The following chart depicts the success factors considered critical by the responding stakeholders in this county in order for the Eastern Tier radio project to be successful.

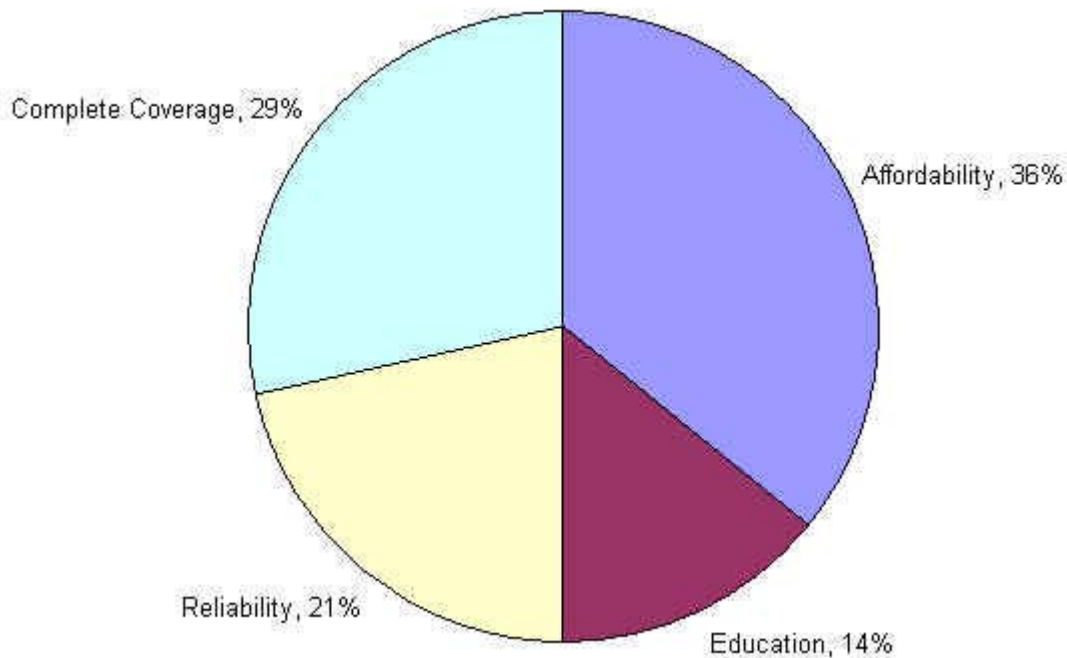


Figure 18 – Critical Success Factors, Garfield County

How to read this chart:

Stakeholders were asked to list, in priority order, the top five factors they felt were most necessary for the Eastern Tier radio project to be successful. Those items ranked higher were given a higher point value than those ranked lower, in order to give higher-ranked items more weight. A percentage for each item was then calculated. If the chart contains less than five items (“wedges”), this indicates the stakeholders did not list the full five possible items.

Some of the same items often appear in both the communications improvements chart and the critical success factors chart. This indicates that these items are very important to the stakeholders.

3. Major Dead Spots

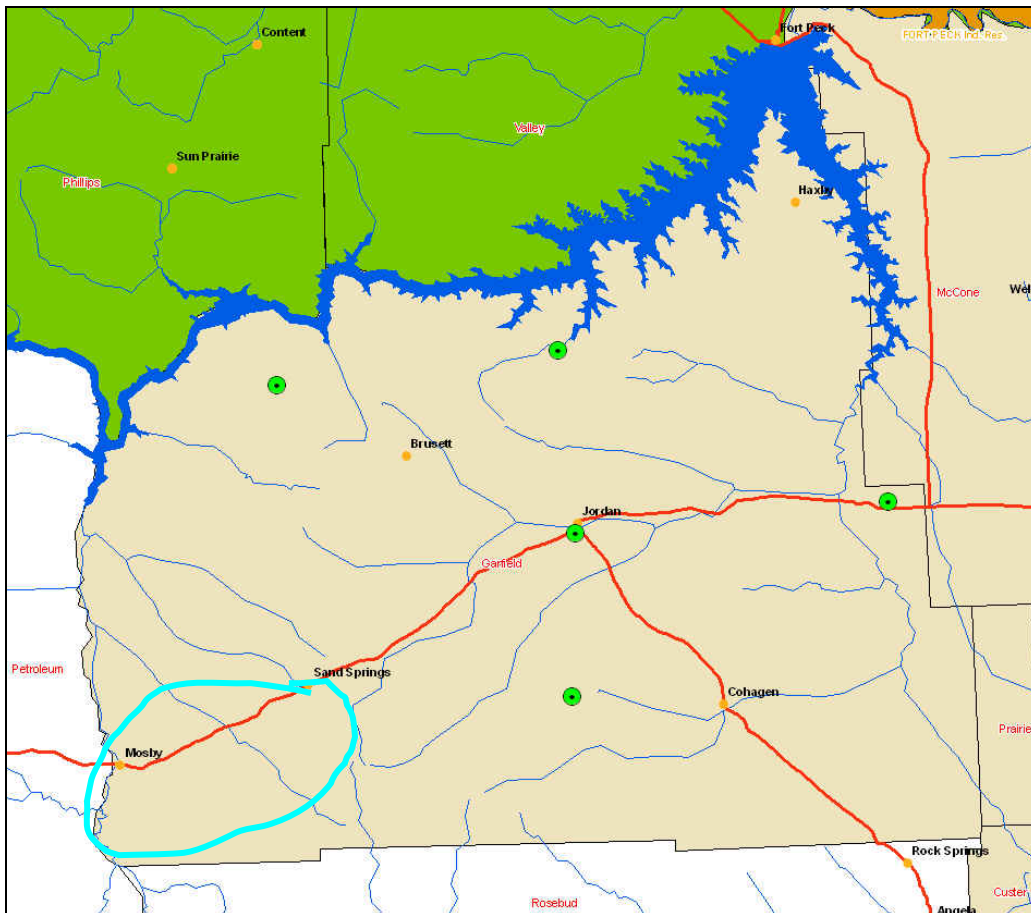


Figure 19 – Dead Spots, Garfield County

Coverage is generally very good in Garfield County. Only the southwest corner of the county (with virtually no population) was mentioned.

Note: Location of “dead spots” is very approximate. In addition, some areas within the dead spots will have better reception than others.